

Message Text

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 DHA-02 SSO-00 H-02 NSC-05

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O 040200Z DEC 76 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9020

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, MX (FRONCZAK, SANDRA)
SUBJECT: W/W: SANDRA FRONCZAK

REF MEXICO 15141

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN RELIABLE INFO ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN FRONCZAK INVESTIGATION, BUT SITUATION REMAINS CLOUDY. EMBASSY LEGAL ADVISER CALLED ON STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL ACOSTA IN CHILPANCINGO DEC. 2. ACOSTA WAS RELUCTANT TO GIVE SPECIFIC DETAILS BUT DID CONFIRM THAT ONE NEW SUSPECT HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND THAT HE - ACOSTA - IS NOW RPT NOW CONFIDENT OF FINDING BODY OF SANDRA FRONCZAK. HE SAID ARREST TOOK PLACE DEC. 1 (HE DID NOT EXPLAIN EARLIER STATEMENT OF NOV. 29 CONFIRMING NEW ARREST, OR OTHER REPORTS THAT ARREST TOOK PLACE AT LEAST SEVERAL DAYS AGO.) ACOSTA STATED THAT AUTHORITIES ARE DRAINING A LARGE LAGOON NEAR ACAPULCO, BUT DECLINED TO GIVE SPECIFIC LOCATION. (HE PREVIOUSLY HAD NAMED "TRES PALOS" LAGOON AS SITE OF NEW SEARCH. ACOSTA DESCRIBED NEW ARRESTED AS "NORTEAMERICANO"? BUT WHEN PRESSED FURTHER SAID SUSPECT IS WHITE BUT NOT U.S. NATIONAL.

2. EMBASSY LEGAL ADVISER ATTEMPTED DEC. 3 TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILS FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS IN ACAPULCO, BUT NONE WOULD GIVE ANY INFO. EMBASSY ALSO ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT ACOSTA IN CHILPANCINGO BUT WAS TOLD HE WAS OUT

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OF TOWN. HOWEVER, FROM ANOTHER EMBASSY CONTACT, WE HAVE

LEARNED THAT POLICE OFFICIAL IN ACAPULCO ARE NOW CONFIDENT THE CASE IS SOLVED. THEY REPORTEDLY HAVE A CONFESSION FROM THE NEW SUSPECT IMPLICATING HIMSELF AND THE TWO POLICEMEN FORMERLY ARRESTED IN THE DOUBLE MURDER OF FNORCZAK AND SEMMELROTH. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, CONFESSION INCLUDES DETAILS OF WHERE BODY WAS DUMPED, AND AUTHORITIES ARE NOW DRAINING A LAGOON IN THE AREA.

3. EMBASSY HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH AND CBS-TV IN ST. LOUIS ASKING FOR CONFIRMATION OF DETAILS. REPORTERS FROM BOTH MEDIA HAVE CONTACTED ACOSTA DIRECTLY AND RECEIVED SOMEWHAT VARYING INFO. ACCORDING TO POST DISPATCH REPORTER, ACOSTA INFORMED HIM THAT ONE SUSPECT ARRESTED SEVERAL DAYS AGO, HAD BEEN FORMALLY CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF BOTH FRONCZAK AND SEMMELROTH, AND THAT TWO POLICEMEN IN CUSTODY HAVE NOW BEEN CHARGED WITH MURDER OF BOTH FRONCZAK AND SEMMELROTH. HE WAS TOLD THAT POLICE ARE SEARCHING LAGOON AND EXPECT TO FIND BODY. NEW SUSPECT WAS REPORTED TO BE A FORMER POLICE AGENT MORE RECENTLY WORKING AS A TOUR GUIDE. CBS REPORTER WAS GIVEN SIMILAR REPORT EXCEPT THAT ARREST REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE EIGHT OR NINE DAYS AGO. SUSPECT WAS REPORTED TO BE A MEXICAN; NO INFO ON WHETHER FORMALLY CHARGED OR NOT.

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE MONITORING CASE AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE AND REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS. ABOVE INFO HAS BEEN REPORTED TO MR. FRONCZAK AND MR. MCGOWAN BY TELEPHONE. REQUEST DEPT INFORM OFFICES OF INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN AS APPROPRIATE.

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